

## LOCAL PROMISING IDEAS AND PRACTICES

**South Snohomish County LPA – WorkFirst Customized Community Initiative - Baby Steps to Employment: for PTE:** The “Baby Steps to Employment” project focused on a growing portion of the caseload in South Snohomish County – PTE. It was a partnership project designed to provide educational (GED and basic skills), financial literacy, parenting, childcare information, and job readiness for those women who are in the PTE pathway and who have minimum participation requirements. The partnership felt that the “exemption” time was a critical time to help women prepare for work while they are bonding with their infant or preparing for childbirth. This project encompassed LEP PTE clients as well and for them focused on ESL. The goal for these parents was to go to work at \$9.18 per hour.

**Partners:** DSHS, Employment Security, Edmonds Community College, and other LPA partners

**Program Impacts:** Increase in the number of PTE Moms who participated in activities while in the PTE pathway. Many of which completed their GED while in the program. Many of the mothers went to work at the TWI wage once they completed the program.

**Resources:** Leveraged partner resources and some donated items

**Policy Changes:** Yes, policy “tweaks” were necessary

**Benefits:** Better engagement of TANF parents, better retention in programs and better outcomes.

**Contact:** Debbie Corn, CSO, LPA Lead, 425-673-3006

**North Snohomish County LPA-Cultural Awareness for a Diverse Community:** To increase diversity awareness and understanding in the community in order to have more positive interaction between the community and our LEP and ethnic minority clients. Also, to increase diversity awareness and understanding in employers so that they can successfully employ immigrants, refugees, new arrivals to Snohomish County and ethnic minority clients and succeed in today’s ever-evolving marketplace.

**Partners:** Full LPA partnership, the City of Everett, the Everett CSO, Employment Security, Refugee and Immigrant Forum of Snohomish County, Sky Valley CSO, Smokey Point CSO, Snohomish County Human Services, Tulalip Tribe, WorkSource Everett, Everett Community College, TRAC Associates and others.

**Program Impacts:** Increased the WorkFirst program connection to the business community, helped staff learn skills to increase engagement with the LEP population,

**Resources:**

**Policy Changes:** None required.

**Benefits:** Increased engagement of LEP TANF parents, increased community awareness of cultural differences, better job placements.

**Contact:** Gwen Delp, Everett CSOA, 425-339-4716

**South King County LPA – “Breaking Barriers” Workshop for ex-offenders:** A project was created between South Seattle Community College (SSCC) and the South King County LPA three WorkFirst offices. SSCC provided a “life skills to work” workshop called “Breaking Barriers”. This project was for TANF parents with criminal backgrounds to help them resolve employment barriers and go to work. The programs were “open enrollment” and 3 to 10 weeks in length.

**Partners:** DSHS, ESD, and SSCC

**Program Impacts:** Out of 110 participants, 54 gained employment and 22 TANF cases were closed

**Resources:** Leveraged dollars and 50% grant from SSCC

**Policy Changes:** None

**Benefits:** A focused program for ex-offenders that addresses their unique employment barriers.

**Contact:** Cathy Swanson, ESD Supervisor, 253-835-2930 or Keith Marler, SSCC, 206-768-6667

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### **Yakima/Kittitas County LPA - Wapato Teen Pregnancy Project::**

The target population for the Wapato Teen Project was Native American pregnant/parenting teens, which had little or no family support. This population was selected because they represented the group with the least amount of support systems in place and a high teen parenthood rate. Teens falling into this category are either doing poorly in school or have dropped out of school all together. Therefore, there is a significant potential that they will become dependent upon TANF as adults.

The teens met bi-weekly for a 5-hour session. Other presenters included Power of Hope, Yakima Indian Health Clinic, Yakima Prosecuting Attorney, MERIT Resource Services, and Yakima Nation Supplemental Youth Services, Yakima Valley Community College, Heritage College, Perry Technical Institute, Wapato CSO, Planned Parenthood and the Yakima Indian Health Service. As part of the grant, a temporary social worker position was created. This individual was responsible to arrange transportation for the teen participants, provide food, and schedule the presenters. She was also the primary contact for the teen participants to answer any questions and provide assistance.

<b>Partners:</b>	Yakima Nation, DSHS, DCFS, DCS, Yakima Valley Community College, Indian Health Services, Housing and Nutrition, others listed above
<b>Program Impact:</b>	Increase in TANF participation. 20 youth enrolled and 14 completed.
<b>Resources:</b>	CTED grant and leveraged resources and time by all partners.
<b>Policy Changes:</b>	None
<b>Benefits:</b>	Outreach to a vulnerable population. Partnership with the Yakima Nation as a "TANF prevention" and awareness approach to reaching native pregnant or parenting youth. Increase in awareness of resources and healthy choices available to them.
<b>Contact:</b>	Stephanie Murphy, Wapato CSOA, 509- 877-5106